

CNS4077

UGE 27-10 00203 EG957

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MAHATHIR WANTS INFO ON PURCHASE OF GOLF MEMBERSHIP

Mahathir-Golf

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PETALING JAYA, Oct 27¹⁹² (Bernama) -- The Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today he would seek details of Mara Holdings Sdn Bhd's purchase of the Rahman Putra Golf Club membership costing \$28.35 million last week.

Dr Mahathir said he wanted to know reasons for the purchase and whether it was discussed first or had complied with existing procedures.

+Sometimes although a purchase is in order, it may be unwise.. this must be taken into account,+ he told reporters after opening the Optical Communication Engineering Sdn Bhd factory at Jalan Semangat here. The \$60-million factory produces optic fibre and optic fibre cable.

Dr Mahathir said Mara's role was to enhance the position of the Malays in business and education and the purchase of the golf club membership in actual fact was contrary to the aim of setting up Mara.

+Despite this we want to know as there may be certain reasons(behind the purchase of -the 450 Rahman Putra Golf membership. The club is situated at the outskirts of the federal capital) ,+ he said. -- more

▼27/10/14-22MST

CNS4081

UGE 27-10 00122 EG958

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Mahathir-Golf 2 Petaling Jaya

He said Mara Holdings Sdn Bhd would have to submit a report on the purchase.

Dr Mahathir also commented on the several fires occurring lately, the latest yesterday, when fire razed the Pulau Pinang Road Transport Department (JPJ) destroying at least 300,000 files and vehicle documents.

He said there would not be fires if all parties followed procedures.

Two weeks ago fire gutted the control tower at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport, the second in six months.

Dr Mahathir said there should be copies of records and microfilms of documents and they should be kept in other places to prevent destruction by fires. -- more

▼27/10/14-26MST

CNS4126

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Mahathir-Golf 3 Petaling Jaya

He said if this was not done, what had happened to the National Survey and Mapping Department here could recur causing difficulties to all.

The Prime Minister advised all parties to be more careful to prevent fires from breaking out;

+As there are no records now, some people not paying their dues can get away scot free (as a result of the destruction of files and documents at the Pulau Pinang JPJ fire),+ he said.

In his speech, Dr Mahathir said the indicator of a nation's progress was the existence of a complete and well-maintained infrastructure system which all the people could use.

He said it was meaningless for the nation to be proud of its developed 'manufacturing sector if basic facilities like electricity, water, transport and communications were not developed in tandem.'

+Total national development requires balanced development in all sectors or at least the gap is not very evident;.. We must ensure that the rural sector is not left far behind,+ he said.

If this happened it would affect government's efforts to provide social justice to the people, he said. -- more

▼27/10/15-23MST

CNS4132

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Mahathir-Golf 4 (last.) Petaling Jaya

Optical Communication (Opcom) Engineering, chairman, Datuk Tiong Hiew King said the factory could produce 120,000 km of optic fibre and 8,000 km of optic cable fibre a year.

Optic fibre technology, developed in mid-1970, have a transmission rate of between 1,000 and 100,000 times more than ordinary steel cable.

He said Opcom would soon build its second factory that would double its production.

Besides aiming to be the largest producer of optic fibre and optic cable fibre in Southeast Asia, the company planned to increase the use of local materials to 80 per cent within three years.

Health Minister Datuk Lee Kim Sai, Minister of Science, Technology and Environment Datuk Law Hieng Ding were present. -- Bernama

▼27/10/15-30MST